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PAUL ADIN LEWIS

SIMON FLEXNER

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH,
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Reprinted from SCIENCE, August 9, 1929, Vol. LXX,
No. 1806, pages 133-134.



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DR. PAUL A. LEWIS, associate member of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, attached to its department of animal pathology near Princeton, N. J., died of yellow fever at Bahia, Brazil, on June 30, while engaged under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation in the investigation of the virus of that disease.

Dr. Lewis volunteered for this service and sailed from New York on December 29, 1928, reaching Bahia on January 15. He devoted himself to the study of several important laboratory problems relating to yellow fever and the nature of its inciting microorganism, and although this study was interrupted by his sad and premature death, it is believed that the notes and records which he left will preserve his findings for the benefit of his coworkers and successors.

Dr. Lewis was born in Chicago, Illinois, on April 14, 1879, so that he was fifty years old at the time of his death. His father, Clinton H. Lewis, a physician of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, survives him, and a sister, Dr. Marian Lewis, who is also a practising physician in Milwaukee. He attended the University of Wisconsin and the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Milwaukee, finally completing his medical studies at the University of Pennsylvania, at which institution he took his medical degree in 1904.

Dr. Lewis married Miss Louise Durbin in 1906. Besides his widow, he leaves two children, Janet and Hobart Lewis.

While still an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Lewis decided upon a laboratory career, rather than a career in the practise of medi-

cine. Hence he gave especial attention to bacteriology, in which he did advanced work under Dr. Alexander C. Abbott, and in pathology. After graduation he obtained the residency in pathology at the Boston City Hospital, thus coming under the tutelage of Dr. Frank B. Mallory. The next year he spent as assistant in the antitoxin laboratory of the Massachusetts State Department of Health under Dr. Theobald Smith. From 1906 to 1908 he held an Austin teaching fellowship in comparative pathology at the Harvard Medical School, and in 1908 he entered the Rockefeller Institute as assistant in pathology.

Dr. Lewis's connection with the Rockefeller Institute covers two periods: one extending from 1908 to 1910 at the laboratories in New York, and the other from 1923 until his death at the laboratories of the institute near Princeton. Between 1910 and 1923 he became director of laboratories of the Henry Phipps Institute and professor of experimental pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

The scientific work of Dr. Lewis, as exemplified in the numerous papers which he published, either alone or in association with coworkers, covers several important and distinct fields in pathology and bacteriology. Putting aside certain miscellaneous papers, which were the outcome of his services as pathologist to the Boston City Hospital, his interests in the research field of pathology may be divided into three periods: one in which he studied the phenomena of anaphylaxis, begun while assistant at the antitoxin laboratory, another in which he investigated with the writer the subject of epidemic poliomyelitis and the third in which he attacked the problems of chemotherapy and the influence of heredity in tuberculosis.

In these three fields Dr. Lewis made significant contributions. Together with Auer the demonstration

was brought that acute anaphylactic death in the guinea-pig is caused by constriction of the muscular coats of the small bronchioles, and hence is of the nature of asphyxia. Together with Flexner the determination was made that experimental poliomyelitis in the monkey can be conveyed by inoculation from monkey to monkey through an indefinite series, and the inciting agent or microorganism of the disease belongs to the class of filter-passing viruses. This research which inducted, as it were, Dr. Lewis into the widening subject of the filter-passing viruses as incitants of disease in man and the lower animals, dominated his investigative interests during the Princeton connection with the Rockefeller Institute, and may be said to have been the motivating impulse which led him to volunteer for the yellow fever work in Brazil.

The Philadelphia period of Dr. Lewis's scientific activities was directly affected by his connection with the Henry Phipps Institute, although as Austin fellow he had already studied the relationship of bovine to human tubercle bacilli, and it is responsible for the important observations made by him in association with Sewall Wright on the hereditary factors in resistance to tuberculosis, as shown by experiments on pure-line strains of guinea-pigs.

The significant contributions to knowledge which have been selected from the many papers to which Dr. Lewis's name is attached suffice in themselves to bring out the quality and importance of the scientific work to which he devoted himself, but they do not exhaust the sum of observations which he made in related research fields of pathology and bacteriology.

Dr. Lewis was a member of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, the Association of American Physicians, Sigma Xi, Alpha Omega Alpha and other scientific societies. He possessed a

